effected by availing export promotion schemes administered by the DGFT, the offices of the DGFT initiate necessary proceedings against the exporters for recovery of duty exemption/neutralization benefit availed and imposition of penalty, if any, in terms of the provisions of FT(D&R) Act, 1992 and the Policy and procedures laid thereunder. If the defaulting firm does not pay the same, the Adjudicating Authority declares the firm defaulter, thereby suspending all export benefits to the firm and the Importer-Exporter Code Number of the applicant is suspended/cancelled by the DGFT. In addition, steps are taken for its recovery as an arrear of Land Revenue through the State Government machinery.

The RBI has also directed Authorized dealers/Banks to monitor realization of export bills and take up systematically and vigorously with the concerned exporter where bills remain outstanding beyond the due date. The matter is also required to be reported to the concerned regional offices of the RBI.

Loss due to subsidies

2630. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far made any assessment as to how much money is being lost by way of various concessions, subsidies, relaxations being given by Government to industry, farmers, SEZs, EPZED, FTZED and reduction in Excise and Customs duty on various products;

(b) in what manner Government propose to justify socially giving of so much concessions to above mentioned institutions when these are already earning huge profits as may be seen from their balance sheets; and

(c) what are the advantages to general public by giving huge benefits in the form of subsidy and concessions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The estimated overall revenue forgone on account of various concessions given by Government amounts to Rs. 158661 crore in 2004-05. The estimate of explicit subsidies for the year 2004-05 (Actuals) is Rs. 43,653 crore.

(b) and (c) Poverty and unemployment are the two major problems facing the country. Targeted subsidies are meant to ensure that the basic necessities are made available to the poor at prices affordable to them. Some subsidies and concessions are given to ensure generation of

employment which in turn, would bring down unemployment and poverty. Thus the basic logic of providing subsidies and concessions is to tackle issues of poverty and employment.

Quantum of black money

2631. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2890 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd August, 2005 and state:

(a) what is the estimated quantum of black money in the country;

(b) what specific steps have been taken by the Government after delivering the budget speech, 2005 announcing measures to unearth black money; and

(c) what is the outcome of the steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no formal estimate of black money presently in the country. At the instance of the Government, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) had in 1985 attempted an estimate of black money in circulation in the country. According to the report of the NIPFP, 'Aspects of Black Money in India' (1985), the total amount of black money in the country during financial year 1983-84 was estimated between Rs. 31,584 crores and Rs. 36,786 crores.

(b) By the Finance Act, 2005, the Government have introduced two additional anti-tax evasion measures, namely, the levy of Banking Cash Transaction Tax (BCTT) to establish the trail of large cash withdrawals through banking channels, and furnishing of quaterly returns in respect of certain deposits, as prescribed under 206A of the Income-tax Act, 1961. Further, information regarding specified high value transactions relating to financial year 2004-05 has been received from prescribed persons under the scheme of Annual Information Return. This information is utilized for identifying non-filers of returns of the income and for deepening the tax base.

(c) As unearthing of black money by the Government is a result of a combination of several measures taken by the Income Tax Department and other laws and regulations of the Government, the effect of the above measures cannot be separately quantified. However, seizure of assests valued at Rs. 351.69 crore was made as a result of searches carried out by the Income tax Department during the financial year 2005-06 while surveys carried out during that year led to detection of unaccounted income